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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT

(INT/92/203) - Environment and Development - NGOs: Phase One

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	3 June 1992
Expected duration:	Six months
Proposed executing agency:	OPS
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$500 000 Source of fu
Previous UNDP budget:	$206 400
Total UNDP budget:	$706 400

Project background

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has generated an unprecedented sensitisation and mobilisation effort among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in all regions of the world. In recognition of NGOs' contribution to environment and development and of their vital role in the preparation of the conference and its major outputs, the Preparatory Committee of UNCED adopted criteria for the granting of observer status to NGOs which went beyond the organizations and constituencies traditionally associated with major UN conferences. This was done, in particular, to enable developing country NGOs, which do not have access to UN processes through consultative arrangements, to become involved at the national and international levels in the preparatory process. In support of this decision, governments, UN system agencies and other institutions have, since 1990, contributed to facilitate NGO participation in the process and have funded the organization of substantive conferences, communications networks and other activities as well as the participation of NGOs - in particular from developing countries - in sessions of the Preparatory Committee and UNCED itself.

As part of its overall involvement in the UNCED process, UNDP has contributed significantly to the effort in favour of NGO participation. UNDP's main objectives in doing so have been: (1) to enable developing country NGOs and networks to become involved in the process as a unique opportunity for cross-sectoral dialogue among themselves and with the intergovernmental process; and (2) to support the strengthening of the substantive, managerial and operational capacities of NGOs in developing countries for their further involvement in sustainable action. Under the above-mentioned project, funds have been made available to: (1) support developing country NGO participation in the Earth Summit and the 1992 Global Forum activities from 11 NGO leaders from Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (four additional travel awards were offered by UNDP's Resident Representatives in four countries which participated actively in the National UNCED NGO Project); (2) support the Women's Centre at Rio which operated throughout

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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the UNCED meeting; (3) support preparations for the Inter-Sectoral Dialogue organized to identify areas of common interest among the various independent sectors (NGOs, women, trade unions, youth, media, the corporate sector, religious groups, etc.); and (4) support a French-language news sheet published for francophone NGOs during the Earth Summit.

Investment in these projects has (1) assured strong participation by developing country NGOs in the entire official and NGO process for UNCED; (2) strengthened dialogue and networking on environment and development among NGOs; (3) enhanced dialogue between NGOs, governments and the United Nations system; and (4) improved UNDP's assessment of the longer term needs of developing country NGOs in relation to Agenda 21's implementation thereby increasing UNDP's capacity to respond to these needs during the Fifth Programming Cycle.

Planning for the 1992 Global Forum began in mid-1991 with the full support of the Secretary-General of UNCED. Examined monthly by the International Facilitation Committee (IFC) and the Forum of Brazilian NGOs, it successfully raised $9.7 M from UNDP (from IPF resources) the Government of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the EEL, the Brazilian Federal Government, two and state governments (Rio and Sao Paulo) and several major Brazilian corporations. Several other contributions which had been anticipated did not materialize. Leaving the form with a $2 million shortfall in income. With the support of the Secretary General of UNCED and of the Federal Government of Brazil, UNDP launched an initiative in Rio to generate additional resources. This collective effort succeeded on mobilizing six donor governments, three UN system agencies and programmes, two major Brazilian corporations, four foundations, as well as many NGOs and individuals. To stimulate this process, UNDP's senior management representatives in Rio proposed that UNDP make a matching contribution of $500,000. In total, $2 million was raised as a result of this effort.

Description of project

The proposed revision will contribute to the final phase of the process of social mobilization for UNCED, which is critical for securing a long-term, multi-sectoral commitment by NGOs in all regions to sustainable development action. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) enable all participants in the 1992 Global Forum, in particular those from developing countries, to benefit from all the activities planned since 1991 with their participation; (b) enable dialogue and networking within and across key constituencies (e.g. women, youth, consumers, educators, scientists, etc.) on issues of sustainable development; (c) enable interaction between NGOs, UN system agencies and governments throughout the Earth Summit; (d) facilitate the design and adoption of strategies for medium- and long-term concerted action by NGOs and other organizations in areas such as access to, and transfer of, technology; education and communication; consumer protection; women's rights; population, etc. and (e) enable NGOs, particularly from developing countries, to utilize the full potential offered by the Forum for NGO capacity-building, through training and management workshops, communications seminars, demonstration of relevant technologies, etc.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a sub-contract to cover UNCED travel, undertake activities relating to poverty, environment and development based on NGO participation and conduct relating to national meetings.

Financial data	$
Subcontract	706 400
Total	706 400